Mr. C. Barton Wright.—It was all given to the Finance Member, all the figures.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Can the figures given to the Finance Member find a place in the Proceedings? Only those that are actually read in the Council will be incorporated in the Proceedings of the Council.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—My memory may fail, but I think that I had read all these.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—The reporters' notes show otherwise.

365. Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the article in '*Daily Express*' of the 6th of September 1928 questioning the bonafides of one of the Hon'ble Members of this House for making certain legitimate enquiries in regard to the Government loan advanced to the Mills, and also another article in the same paper dated, the 18th October 1928, by way of clarifying the issues and insisting upon the need for the immediate intervention of the Government with a view to safeguard the interests of the investors, and also the employees of the concern, and if so, did the Government verify the statement made in this article that there were book debts to the extent of *10½ lakhs of rupees*, and is it not in the face of these figures quite patent that the the state of affairs is, to say the least, alarming?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—The Government have not perused the articles.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—May I hand over the cuttings now?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is not a supplementary question.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—May I hand over the cuttings now?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—If you think it advisable, you can put fresh questions on the cuttings.

366. Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Managing Agents have been sacrificing some of their immovable properties in the Town of Trichur by sale at a depreciated value to meet pressing demands, and if so, full particulars should be furnished connected with them, and was any amount from the proceeds of these sales paid to the Government towards the reduction of the loan accounts;

(b) is it a fact that the Factory Regulation has been contravened and the labour "sweated," that is to say, the same

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women and children were working on day and night shifts, and that children under age being employed in the Mills ; and

(c) is it a fact that all hands are certified by the Civil Surgeon according to the Factory Regulations?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—(a) Government have no information.

(b) and (c). Enquiries are being made.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Has the Government instituted inquiries after the receipt of my questions?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Inquiry is being conducted now. We are only secure creditors. What we have to see is to see whether the mortgage is sufficient to give them our amount and for that we are making inquiries.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—May I know when the results of these inquiries are likely to be disclosed ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—There are the Boiler Inspector and the District Magistrate who are authorised under the Regulation to do the needful, and they will be instituting the necessary inquiries always. They have to inspect the factories.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have received a letter from the Inspector of Boilers that he did not really come across any serious instances.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—But I know as a matter of fact it is being done.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—But probably certain coo ies may be working during nights.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I know that they work from 7 in the morning to 12 in day, and there was a boy who worked from 7 till 11 at night. What do you say to that, Sir? Is that sweating?

367. **Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have scrutinised the list of persons who are responsible for the working of the Mills; I append a list of the management and staff and in these circumstances is it not difficult to believe that so large a number of persons, all recruited from the same family, are all likely to be experts with practical training in textile work and with sound commercial experience? Were those appointments thrown open to the public with a view of securing the most capable hands?

The Textile and Commercial Branch of Messrs. T. R. Anantharama Ayyar Brothers.

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